GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:397
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2002
ECONOMIC REFORMS
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Trade Organisation has urged India to intensify economic reforms to meet growth targets and make a serious dent in the high rate of poverty; and (

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the above proposal of WTO?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) to (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 397 FOR ANSWER ON 9TH AUGUST, 2002 REGARDING ECONOMIC REFORMS

(a): The third trade policy review of India took place in WTO on 19 and 21 June 2002 which attracted a high level of participation and interest among the WTO Members. In her concluding remarks, the Chairperson of the WTO Trade Policy Review Body stated that this review meeting had led to a much better understanding of India`s trade policies and summed up the proceedings as follows: `...The large number of advance questions, numerous interventions (some 30) and the high level of attendance indicate the important role that India plays at the WTO. India was commended for its reform process, including trade liberalisation, and simplification of the trade and investment regime. However, I think we all agree that India needs to do more if growth targets are to be met and a serious dent is to be made in the still high rate of poverty. In this regard, Members gave India their full support for its efforts to reform the economy. Many Members added that these efforts would be greatly enhanced by steps on the part of India`s trading partners to reduce, if not remove, their impediments to India`s exports, especially in the context of new negotiations in line with the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). India has clearly stated its support for the WTO and the DDA but considers that if further progress is to be made, the onus remains on the developed countries to keep the promises made in Doha. This view was endorsed by many other Members, who look to India for leadership in these negotiations.`

(b): During its trade policy review, India outlined the economic reform measures undertaken during the last four years. The targets set for the Tenth Five Year Plan were also indicated. It was further highlighted that the reforms were being carried out through a process of internal consultation and consensus taking into account the varied needs of the different segments of the population and within the framework of India`s democratic and federal structure.